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LEGAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ANTI-CORRUPTION (LPAC) ACTIVITY

August 2015-August 2020 | Implementer: Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.

The Legal Professional Development and Anti-Corruption (LPAC) activity is USAID/Liberia's primary formal justice sector program. LPAC is promoting a more effective and accountable formal justice sector by strengthening the capacity of four legal institutions: the James A. A. Pierre Judicial Institute, the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, the Liberia Legal Information Institute (LiberLII), and the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA). LPAC supports its partner institutions with the ultimate aim of making them sustainable, so as to enable them to operate more efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, LPAC supports the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and associated Government of Liberia agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute corruption, as well as educate the public on corruption related issues and implications.

Current Activities

- Quarterly training for Judges, Public Defenders, Bailiffs, Court Sherriffs, and Court Adminiustrators;
- Training of sixty magistrates under the Professional Magistrates Training Program;
- Sponsors public interest scholars at the Law School;
- Supports the Law Scool on sudent counselling , outreach, and fundraising;
- Working with the Law School to develop a curriculum on gender law;

- Supports the LNBA to operate five pro-bono legal aide clinics to provide legal services to pre-trial detainees and indigent clients; and
- Builds the capacity of LACC and other agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute corruption cases.

Accomplishment to Date:

- Supported trainings to strengthen the capacity of judges and court officers, which has resulted in improvements in the capacity of judicial actors to make timely interventions in settling conflicts between citizens as well as between citizens and government, and fulfilling the requirement of justice.
- Modernized and improved the quality of education at the Law School through the provision of audio-visual teaching equipment in classrooms and the conference room, updated the computer lab and provided internet access.
- Supported the Law School Annual Retreat for 2018, which assessed progress on the implementation of the new 2017-20 Strategic Plan and set objectives for academic year 2019.
- Partnered with the Judicial Institute to improve testing standards for magistrates, and supported the recruitment and training of 60 new magistrates.
- Supported the LNBA to establish first-ever mandatory Continuing Legal Education (CLE) regulations and mandating LNBA with their implementation, and thereby raising the proficiency of legal practitioners.
- Supported the LNBA to open five new pro-bono legal aid clinics, which are working to reduce pre-trial detention rates and provide access to justice to traditionally underserved communities.
- Built the capacity of LACC's investigation staff in financial investigations, digital forensics, intelligence-led policing, surveillance, criminal asset recovery, and interview techniques in complex cases.

Planned Outcomes

- Sustainable rule of law institutions.
- GOL agencies capacitated to minimize corruption.